



Union firefighters spend day at MDA summer camp

More than 100 union firefighters from throughout Oregon spent the day July 11 at the Muscular Dystrophy Association's annual summer camp at Camp Arrah Wanna near Mt. Hood in Welches.

"Campers look forward to and talk about

Firefighter Day year-round," said Kathleen Jasper, camp coordinator from MDA.

Firefighters show off their rigs, enjoy a lunch with the campers hosted by Portland Fire Fighters Local 43, and participate in games throughout the day. The summer

camp lasts a week, and about 30 firefighters spend the entire week serving as counselors. Many of the firefighters have been volunteers since the 1980s.

The camp provides campers ages 6 to 21 an opportunity to spend time away from their parents and with other young people affected by neuromuscular diseases.

Activities are specially designed for young people with limited mobility or confined to a wheelchair. Activities range from outdoor sports such as swimming, wheelchair sports and horseback riding; to less physically demanding activities like arts and crafts and talent shows.

This year's summer camp hosted 103 campers.

"The firefighters are really dedicated to



this camp and to our organization," Jasper said. "This summer camp has one of the highest volunteer rates of firefighters in the country."

Throughout the summer, firefighters from across the nation participate in "Fill-the-Boot" drives, where they stand on streets or attend parades and ask passing motorists and spectators to fill their fire boots with donations to MDA.

Over the past 50 years, the International Association of Fire Fighters has collected more than \$300 million for MDA.



Union firefighters from more than a half-dozen locals in Oregon took part in an obstacle course race. The event included grabbing a key (photo left) and finding the right lock to unchain a T-shirt; balancing an egg on a spoon; eating a whipped cream pie (photo at top of page), and more. In the photo above, firefighters get ready to compete in a "water ball" contest against MDA camp counselors.